The Cleveland Museum of Art

Press Release

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LANDSCAPE ARTISTRY OF OLD MASTERS CELEBRATED IN CONFERENCE AND RELATED EXHIBITION AT THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

(Cleveland, OH) -- The three-decades-long teaching career of esteemed scholar Walter S. Gibson at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) comes to a close as he retires at the end of the 1996-97 academic year. In honor of Gibson, who holds the post of Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities in the Department of Art History and Art, CWRU faculty and curators at the Cleveland Museum of Art have convened art historians from the U.S. and Europe for a public symposium, "In Detail: New Studies of Northern Renaissance Art" on Friday and Saturday, October 4 and 5, at the museum. Conference registration is $15 (free for students). Complementing the symposium is a free exhibition, now on view, featuring some of the museum's most beautiful Dutch and Flemish landscapes: called **Landscape in Detail**, this show of illuminated manuscripts, drawings, prints, and paintings will remain open through November 3, 1996.

Registration forms are available at the museum and at CWRU, or by calling conference chairperson Catherine B. Scallen of CWRU at 216/368-4118 (e-mail: cbs2@po.cwru.edu). Faculty of Kent State University and John Carroll University are also contributing to plans for the conference, which is co-sponsored by CWRU and the museum.

Conference participants were invited because of their association with Professor Gibson, their contributions to scholarship in Gibson's major research field of 16th-century Dutch and Flemish art, and the variety of art historical perspectives they represent. Traveling the farthest for this tribute is Jan Piet Filedt Kok of the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, who will speak on Saturday morning about Flemish Primitives in that collection. Also on Saturday: *Middle Class Morality: Love and Marriage in the Art of Lucas van Leyden and His Contemporaries*, Larry Silver, Northwestern University; *Jan van Scorel's Italian Landscapes*, Molly Faries, Indiana University; *An Occupational Hazard: Saint Jerome, Melancholia and the Scholarly Life*, Laurinda Dixon, Syracuse University; *The Revival of the "Flemish Primitives" in Belgium, 1854-1902*, Stephen Goddard, Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas; *Gerard Horenbout*, Robert Calkins, Cornell University; *Reading the Architectural*

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Language in Jan van Eyck's Rolin Madonna, Laura Gelfand, University of the Pacific; and *The Practical Logistics of Art: Thoughts on the Commissioning, Displaying, and Storing of Art at the Burgundian Court*, Jeffrey Chipps Smith, University of Texas, Austin. Manuscripts specialist James Marrow of Princeton University will give the keynote speech on Friday evening at 5:30: *Interpretation, not Connoisseurship: History, Historiography and Pictorial Invention in the Turin-Milan Hours.*

Gibson is recognized by fellow scholars around the world for his research on the development of the Northern landscape tradition, on depictions of proverbs or sayings in Flemish art, and on depictions of hell and purgatory in Northern European art. His 1973 book on Hieronymus Bosch in the "World of Art" series is currently available in English, German, Dutch, Japanese, and Spanish, and being translated into Finnish, Czech, Hungarian, Russian, and French; his 1977 book on Pieter Bruegel is also widely available as part of the "World of Art" series. His 1989 book, *"Mirror of the Earth": The World Landscape in Sixteenth-Century Flemish Painting*, includes Herri Bles' *Landscape with St. John the Baptist Preaching* and other works in the **Landscape in Detail** exhibition. Gibson's many essays and lectures include "The Grateful Dead in Legend and Art," "Pieter Bruegel, *Dulle Griet*, and Sexist Politics in the Sixteenth Century," and "In Detail: Bruegel's *The Harvesters*," which inspired the titles for the conference and the exhibition.

Gibson received his B.F.A. and M.A. from Ohio State University and his Ph.D. from Harvard University. For his doctoral dissertation on *The Paintings of Cornelis Engebrechtsz*, he conducted research at the Kunsthistorisch Instituut der Rijksuniversiteit, Utrecht, on a Fulbright Scholarship, the first of many honors and grants that have distinguished his tenure. He joined the CWRU faculty as an assistant professor in the art department in 1966. A Cleveland Heights resident, Gibson divides his time between Greater Cleveland and his retirement destination in New England, where his wife, Sarah S. Gibson, formerly a professor at the Matthew A. Baxter School of Library and Information Science at CWRU, is librarian at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

Support for the **Landscape in Detail** exhibition is provided by Patron Sponsors Jane and Michael Horvitz and Ellen and Bruce Mavec.

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